



PASTORAL NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

DR. EMMANUEL OSEI

Dear Friends,

I bring you greetings from my fellow Officers and Directors of the South England Conference.

This week we passed a tragic milestone, with more than 100,000 coronavirus-related deaths now recorded in the UK, according to [official figures](#).

I wish to express my condolences to all those who have lost loved ones. I am also grateful for our dedicated Pastors who conducted a great many funeral services, during what has arguably been the most difficult and challenging year for us as a church. As leaders, we have taken time to pray for all our workers and members who are suffering with the coronavirus, and we will continue to lift you up before our Lord and Saviour.

More than 7 million people in the UK have now received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccination - around 10% of the UK's total population. This has been heralded by many as the answer we have been waiting for in our year-long battle against the novel coronavirus. However, not everyone is so confident that the rapid rollout of vaccines is such good news.

Given the incredible speed with which the Pfizer-BioNTech and Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines have been developed, some have raised concerns about the safety and composition of these new vaccines. But beyond this there are also claims that the vaccines will alter DNA, that they contain

foetal tissue, or even microchips which will be used to track and control those who consent to vaccination. Within Adventist circles and beyond, suspicion and conspiracies are disseminated across most social media platforms linking these ideas to eschatological concepts like the mark of the beast.

Speculations such as these are causing confusion among sincere believers, creating a distraction from real prophetic issues and risk bringing the Word of God into disrepute. It is therefore important for those of us in leadership positions to be adequately informed, so that we are able to engage with church and community members in helpful ways.

In order to assist you and your members, our Communication Director, Pastor Sam Davies, has arranged a special session at **3pm this Sabbath, 30 January**. Along with Health Ministries Director, Dr Chidi Ngwaba, and Dr Brighton Kavaloh, our Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Director, he will be addressing questions and concerns about the vaccine.

We encourage you to share details of the meeting widely among your members and other contacts. You can join the meeting on Zoom via this [direct link](#) or using the following login details:

Zoom Meeting ID: 988 2651 9435

Passcode: 745128

Should attendance exceed capacity on Zoom, the livestream will also be available to view on the [SECMedia website](#) and

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PRISON MINISTRIES

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

SABBATH SCHOOL

STEWARDSHIP

TEENS

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

YOUTH

[YouTube page](#) (where it will also be available to replay on demand).

You may also be interested to view this webinar on the COVID-19 Vaccinations conducted by Loma Linda specialists in medicine and science, along with the GC Health Ministries Director, Dr Peter Landless:

<https://ghi.llu.edu/jan27>

Communication & Media**Presidential Update: 27 January**

Please share this week's video update with the members of your congregations. We also encourage you to schedule this clip in your online Sabbath services for the benefit of those unable to access the link via social media: <https://youtu.be/FF7yPZpAHPk>

60 SEC News

A new episode is released each Friday.

Watch all episodes here:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCJwMkH9QCA_6uapEj2iGQuaIdbOmcP6i

SEC COMMUNICATOR Magazine

The latest edition focuses on "Building Communities" and features Please read and share with all members of your congregations as we seek innovative ways of reaching out to our immediate communities: <https://seccommunicator.com>

Cornerstone Counselling Service (CCS)

Please ensure your members are aware of the support available through Cornerstone:

- Call the dedicated listening line from 8am to midnight, seven days a week on 0330 133 2495;
- For counselling appointments, call the office on 0207 723 8050, from 9.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Thursday, and 9am to 12 noon on Fridays;
- Email connect@ccscounselling.org.uk;
- Visit our website to chat online and for emotional support resources: www.ccscounselling.org.uk

Are you a mental health first aider?

If so, CCS would like to hear from you.

Please contact Thembie on 0207 723 8050 or connect@ccscounselling.org.uk.

Stanborough Press**Watford LifeSource Christian Bookshop: Temporary Change of Opening Hours**

Please be advised that the Watford bookshop (in the BUC Building) will be temporarily reverting back to a two-day opening schedule during February:

- Tuesdays: 12.30pm-5pm, and
- Fridays: 10am-2pm

If in doubt, please call 01923 893 461 to hear an automated message announcing the current opening hours. And don't forget, our online shop, which offers food, books, and other resources, remains open 24/7:

<https://lifesourcebookshop.co.uk>

LifeSource Online Sale**Continues until 31 January 2021**

A range of sale items are still available online, in addition to 2021 calendars, devotionals, and study guides:

<https://lifesourcebookshop.co.uk/product-category/january-2021-sale>

The MESSENGER (Issue 1, 2021)

Please find attached a digital copy of The MESSENGER magazine. Your printed copy should arrive by post tomorrow (Friday 29 January). If you (or any other church member) wish to continue receiving The MESSENGER by direct mail without interruption of service, please ensure you subscribe:

1. either by emailing the subscription team: msubs@stanboroughpress.org.uk
2. or by posting back the subscription card enclosed with the magazine.

Adventist Discovery Centre**Local Church Online Bible Studies Ministry**

We encourage you to launch an Online Bible School at your local church, offering care for your students from course registration to church membership. All training, a ready-made website and courses are available.

Please contact Pastor Maureen Rock, Adventist Discovery Centre Director on 07768 304026 or mrock@adventist.uk to learn more about this exciting opportunity to **Make Disciples & Build Communities**: <https://adventist.uk/news/article/go/2021-01-21/online-bible-school-at-your-local-church>

Adventist Radio London**Weekend Schedule****Friday 29 - Sunday 31 January**

Join us this weekend as our presenters lead the conversations that matter as part of our live broadcast schedule: <https://adventistradio.london>

COVID-19 Vaccination Concerns**Saturday 30 January (3pm)**

Recognising the concerns that many of our members have expressed following the launch of the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination programme, we invite you to share the attached poster and attend this important briefing:

<https://zoom.us/j/98826519435?pwd=aDdGT0RlcmZNRWdhNWQvdzZxMED2UT09>

Zoom Meeting ID: 988 2651 9435

Passcode: 745128

Teens Ministries**ABCs of Local Teens Ministries****Starts Sunday 31 January (10.30am-11.30am)**

Join us on the last Sunday of every month for a one-hour workshop webinar with Teens Ministry Director, Pastor JC Patrick. If you are passionate about working for and with young people aged 12-18, register to attend at: <http://www.secteens.org>

Are you planning a Teens' Day this year?

If you are planning to celebrate a teens' day, and would like us to assist you, please do not hesitate to let us know. Our teens days

are designed to minister to teens and the whole church family. If you need a speaker for the day, someone to give a workshop or a seminar, or if you would like us to attend and support your programme, please feel free to call 01923 656 524 or email us at jpatrick@secadventist.org.uk or teens@secadventist.org.uk.

Men's Ministry**Real Men Real Talk****Monday 1 February (7.30pm-9.30pm)**

Men of all ages from across the SEC and beyond are invited to join this online meeting via Zoom Conferencing.

Open Forum.

We look forward to seeing you:

<https://zoom.us/j/99789229366?pwd=a3hQV0Nvc0p2a2tuZCs5TmFCsG5kQT09>

Zoom Meeting ID: 997 8922 9366

Passcode: MEN012021

For more information contact Devon Boyd on dboyd@secadventist.org.uk or 07956 383222.

SEC Elders Retreat 2021**Friday 5 - Sunday 7 February**

Elders are encouraged to register their interest in attending this training event using the link:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Bjly4vbXIU2hs4yDLOmbIE9RP5g9QB5Gg_QjV4BhIRFUMzBDRFJRTzRJMVY3R0g30FBBTjVLSUNYRS4u

Platform TBC. Contact Pastor Samuel Ouadjo or Alberto Francis on 01923 232 728 for more information.

Newbold College Diversity Lectures**Spring Semester: Leadership During and After the Pandemic****Tuesday 9 February (7.30pm)**

This semester we will look at what leadership is looking like, who is making a success of it and whether it might come from surprising places.

Lecturer: Dr Steve Aisthorpe - Mission Development Worker for the Church of Scotland's Church Without Walls team.

Title: Covid-19 and the Wilding of the Church - What sort of leaders do we need?

Register: to join in with the interactive Q&A following the lecture:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/6416097643726/WN_se7jiRwgSs-A9FJwi0O5sg

BUC Prophecy Presentations**The Book of Daniel****Continues until Friday 12 February (8pm)**

Pastor Gary Kent, from Australia, uncovers the teachings of the first six chapters of the historical book of Daniel, through drama and prophecy:

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-8capq8wh9HPPFRWPuZxG-U3HKzULR16G>

Pathfinders and Adventurers

Virtual Pathfinder and Adventurer Bible Experience

Saturday 13 February

We look forward to the first Conference Level Virtual PBE and ABE following the success of the Area level test earlier this month. 40 Pathfinder Teams and 29 Adventurer teams will go head-to-head, computer-to-computer, in hopes of reaching the Union level. We appreciate your prayer and support for this event.

Master Guide Training for Pastors

Sunday 21 February

Where other Divisions make it mandatory for Master Guide training to be part of Theology Training, the TED does not. However, recognising the need to enrich their ministry to children, a few Pastors were present at our most recent Basic Staff Training Course for Pathfinders. We are planning general Master Guide Orientation day on 21 February 2021 and would like to invite interested Pastors to come along and join the MG Training Course. Because some of the elements are covered in the Theology Degree, we are tailoring an MG Course specifically for pastors. If you are interested, please send an email to pathfinders@secadventist.org.uk.

Public Affairs & Religious Liberty (PARL)

The International Legal Pathway of the Holy See and its Implications for Admission as a Full Member of the United Nations

RESCHEDULED for Sunday 7 March (7pm)

Join Dr Brighton Kavaloh for this insightful presentation to learn more about the quest of the Holy See for full membership in the community of nations.

Zoom Meeting ID: 862 9423 5860

Passcode: 421291

or **Dial:** 0203 481 5240

Prayer Focus

Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

- James 5:17, 18

When upon Mount Carmel he [Elijah] offered the prayer for rain (1 Kings 18:41-45), his faith was tested, but he persevered in making known his request unto God. Six times he prayed earnestly, and yet there was no sign that his petition was granted, but with a strong faith he urged his plea to the throne of grace. Had he given up in discouragement at the sixth time, his prayer would not have been answered, but he persevered till the answer came. We have a God whose ear is not closed to our petitions; and if we prove His Word, He will honour our faith. He wants us to have all our interests interwoven with His interests, and then He can safely bless us; for we shall not then take glory to self when the blessing is ours but shall render all the praise to God.

God does not always answer our prayers the first time we call upon Him; for should He do this, we might take it for granted that we had a right to all the blessings and favours He bestowed upon us. Instead of searching our hearts to see if any evil was entertained by us, any sin indulged, we should become careless, and fail to recognize our dependence upon Him, and our need of His help.

The servant watched while Elijah prayed. Six times he returned from the watch, saying, "There is nothing, no cloud, no sign of rain." But the prophet did not give up in discouragement.... As he searched his heart, he seemed to be less and less, both in his own estimation and in the sight of God.... And when he reached the point of renouncing self, while he clung to the Saviour as his only strength and righteousness, the answer came. The servant appeared, and said, "Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand." (v. 45)

Elijah did not wait for the heavens to gather blackness. In that small cloud, he beheld by faith an abundance of rain; and he acted in harmony with his faith.... Faith such as this is needed in the world today—faith that will lay hold on the promises of God's word and refuse to let go until Heaven hears.

SEC Prayer Line

Join us for a Spirit-filled hour of prayer every morning from 6am.

Dial in (UK): 0330 088 1937

Telephone access code: 619764#

Join the online meeting:

<https://join.freeconferencecall.com/churchh>

Online meeting ID: churchh

International dial-in numbers:

<https://fccdl.in/i/churchh>

Warmest regards,



Dr Emmanuel Osei
President
South England Conference